

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A middle ear prosthesis comprising:
2 a piston adapted to extend through an oval window when implanted in a human ear;
4 a pair of jaws for engaging an ossicle when implanted in a human ear;
6 a spring coupled to the jaws for biasing the jaws toward one another to provide
clamping pressure, wherein the spring is integrally formed between the pair of jaws and is of a
8 flexible material different from a material of the jaws; and
 means for operatively connecting the jaws to the piston comprising a wire operatively
 connected to one of the jaws and to the piston.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein each of the jaws
2 comprises a body having a semi-cylindrical inner surface.

5. (currently amended) The middle ear prosthesis of claim [[4]] 1 wherein the spring
2 comprises a pair of flexible support arms each operatively coupled to an associated one of the jaws
 is of silicon.

6. (currently amended) The middle ear prosthesis of claim [[5]] 1 wherein ~~each support arm has one end received in an opening in the associated jaw and another end coupled to the piston~~ the spring is of pliable plastic.

7. (currently amended) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein ~~each support arm has one end surrounding the body of the associated jaw and another end coupled to the piston~~ the spring is integrally formed between the pair of jaws to define a C-shaped attachment mechanism.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The middle ear prosthesis of claim [[9]] 1 further comprising a second wire connected to the other jaw so that the wires can be squeezed together to open the jaws.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein the spring is of a biocompatible material.

13. (canceled)

14. (original) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein the piston is of a
2 biocompatible material.

15. (original) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein the piston is of a material
2 selected from titanium or PTFE.

16. (original) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein the jaws are of a
2 bioactive material.

17. (original) The middle ear prosthesis of claim 1 wherein the jaws are of
2 hydroxylapatite.

Claims 18 - 26 (canceled).

27. (original) A self crimping ossicular prosthesis comprising:

2 a piston adapted to extend through an oval window when implanted in a human ear;
4 a pair of jaws of a bioactive material each comprising a body having a semi-
cylindrical inner surface for engaging opposite sides of an ossicle when implanted in a human ear,
to anchor to the ossicle;
6 a spring element of a flexible material, different from the pair of jaws, integrally
coupled to the jaws for biasing the jaws toward one another to provide clamping pressure; and
8 a support arm operatively coupled to one of the jaws and to the piston.

28. (original) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 27 wherein the jaws
2 are spaced apart with the semi-cylindrical inner surfaces facing one another, and the spring element
is connected between the pair of bodies to define a substantially "C" shaped attachment mechanism.

29. (original) The self crimping ossicular prosthesis of claim 27 further comprising
2 a second arm connected to the other jaw so that the arms can be squeezed together to open the jaws.

Claims 30 - 33 (canceled).